Letters to the Editor

Too Harrowing

Last week the Colonist reported the Oak Bay reeve and council proposing to go forward with the provision of parking accommodation for the students of the Oak Bay Senior High School. When I read this I promptly sent off a letter to the reeve protesting in the dual role of parent and taxpayer.

Upon reflection and in the absence of any letters in the press upon the matter, it now appears that my view is quite out of sympathy with the times.

How can I have been so insensitive? These young students, after all, are the offspring of the most prosperous people on earth. We have not and never will deny them anything that money can buy. And we parents rejoice in the sure knowledge that the more money we spend for education the better scholars we shall have.

Certainly we must shield these young people from the physical exertion of walking to school. The very idea that some of them with 200 yards, even 300 yards, to cover between home and school, would venture out afoot . . . in a climate like this . . . it's just too harrowing for words.

It might be that the parents who haven't arranged for their children's cars yet would like to join in the formation of a "piggy-back brigade" and thus they could arrange to carry the lads and lasses during the crisis.

Meanwhile the officials in Oak Bay having due regard for the welfare of the young and the dire need for winter employment will need no encouragement to act at once. Floodlighted work gangs and double shifts would be in order. Let us do this now while the fit is on us!

GORDON SCHENCK,
Parent and Oak Bay Ratepayer.

746 Linkleas Avenue.

By Right of Birth

In connection with the correspondence which has appeared regarding the remarks of Mr. Leathers, a visiting member of the British House of Commons, I feel that few of your readers realize that Mr. Leathers is a Canadian by birth and education. I believe I am right in saying he settled in the U.K. before the 1939 war or maybe just after the war. Incidentally I understand that he is one of the most popular members of the British House of Commons.

In view of the fact that by legislation of our own parliament, we Canadians have dual nationality, Canadian and British, I believe Mr. Leathers felt that as a Canadian by birth, who had not been naturalized away from his Canadian birthright, he had the right to use his democratic right of opinion and self-expression in the land of his birth. After all, Mr. Leathers retains his Canadian citizenship until such time as he renounces his Canadian citizenship and swears allegiance to a foreign power.

M. P. B. WRIXON.

2250 Arbutus Road.

New Market Plan

It should be obvious to all that it would be absurd to keep the present public market building going for the sake of a few tenants. Parking space is badly needed if the heart of town is to survive as a tax-paying entity. However, the mayor has come up with what I think is a wonderful solution, namely, to build a row of inexpensive stalls across one end of the new parking lot. It has been suggested to me that many of the stall holders could, under such circumstances, rent their stalls every day instead of, as at present, Wednesdays and Saturdays only.

It is, I think, most important that the tradition of a home farm products market should be maintained in Victoria, and the number of signatures to the petition indicates the lively interest in maintaining this old Victoria tradition.

M. P. PAINE.

3620 Quadra Street.

Led into Trouble

As one notes massed gatherings of unemployed on the governments, federal and provincial, conditions appear very serious; but writing as a youthful, near 80-year-old farmer, things have to get grim sometimes before they get better.

As one notices projects entailing a lot of money like the new Government House still unfinished, that could have been completed a year ago but for the Teamsters' Union, picket lines and what have you, it should soon be quite evident to the rank and file membership that whilst these labor leaders can and do lead their followers into trouble, yes, serious grief, they don't have the ability to lead them out to success.

If any more demonstrations are staged, I would suggest the leaders head the procession and qualify as unemployed. If the membership put that kind of a bite on them, I believe it would stimulate them to keep the rest at work.

HARRY WYER.

1170 Chapman Street.

CHARLES P. FRASER
. . . law-abiding

★ ★ ★

He Keeps Limits As Habit

Today's courtesy driver's nomination was approved by Victoria city police because the driver has developed a habit of heeding traffic signs.

This may be a sad commentary on the driving of most Greater Victoria residents—but it may also explain why at times "courtesy drivers" are hard to find.

Today's courtesy driver is Charles P. Fraser, a dental technician at Veterans' Hospital whose home is at 2644 Deville Road, Langford.

He was observed driving along Haultain recently, in a careful manner, and observing throughout its distance the posted 20-mile-an-hour speed limit.

Courtesy drivers—or pedestrians — are sought out by police of Greater Victoria who seek to increase safety on the roads through courtesy.

Each candidate receives two tickets to a home game of the Victoria Cougars and, later, a certificate signed by the chief of police.

Co-operating with police in the campaign are Woodward Stores (Victoria) Ltd., Frigidaire Ltd., the Victoria Hockey Club and The Daily Colonist.

Veterans of CNR To Elect Officers

Election of officers will take place at a meeting of the Canadian National Railway Veterans' Association, Friday, at 2 p.m. in the K of P Hall on Cormorant Street.

Group Welcomes Speedboat Curb

Prospect Lake and District Community Association has sent a letter, "with a sense of relief," backing Recreation Minister E. C. Westwood's proposed plans to curb speedboats on small lakes.

Residents have suffered because leisurely weekend and evening outings have been ruined by "thoughtless and irresponsible" people who are mostly non-residents, the association wrote.

The association does not want all power boats banned from the lake, but asks for some method of "control."

For six years, the letter states, the association has tried to get some action and has been told by RCMP any complaints will be investigated.

"In such a small community people hesitate to lodge such a necessary complaint, and they have continued to suffer," the association wrote.

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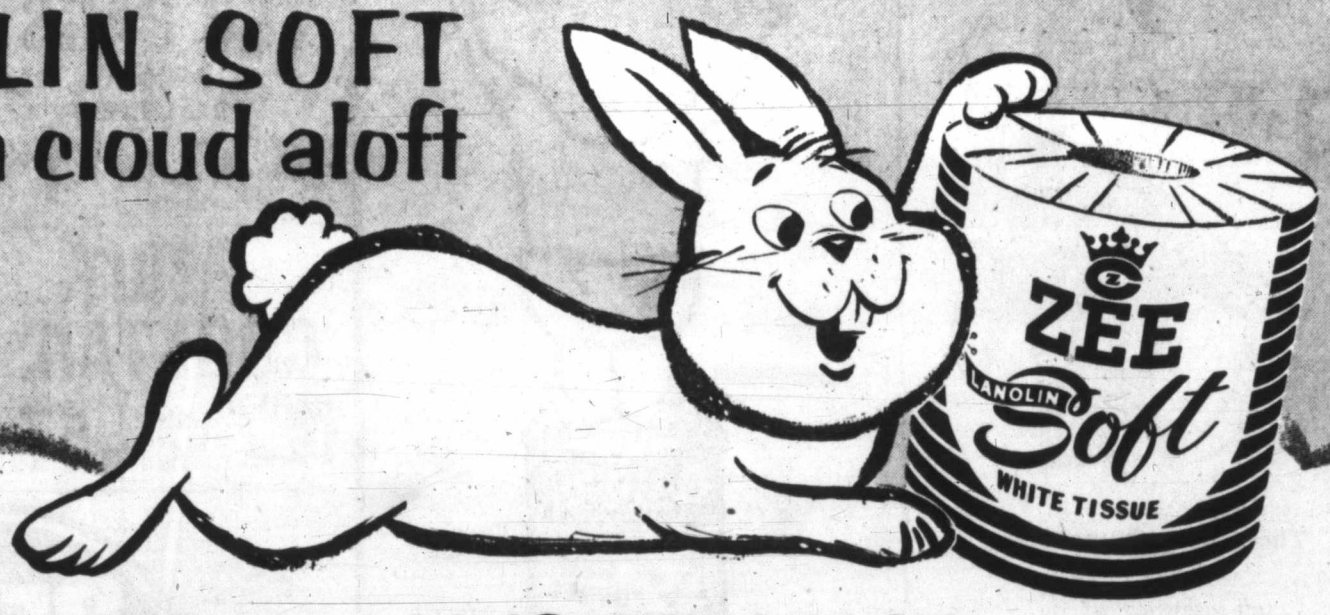

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